modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. A short-term Action Plan for ensuring the revival of the export momentum has been formulated. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as 'extreme focus' sectors aimed at value or volume increase of 30% every year, in exports.

Commodities Identified for Export

740. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain commodities as "Thrust' commodities for export;

(b) if so, what are the details of these commodities; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to increase export of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government have identified 34 commodities/commodity groups called 'Extreme Focus Products' for a special export thrust, based on their potential to achieve a 30% growth per annum over the medium term.

(b) These commodities/commodity Groups are aquaculture, agrochemicals, auto components, bicycles and parts, cement, complete vehicles, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and intermediates, electric power generation and distribution equipment, floriculture, footwear, fresh fruits, gold jewellery, granite, handtools internal combustion engines and parts, industrial castings and forginings, tomato paste products, tropical fruit juices, pulp & concentrates, preserved mushrooms, readymade garments, rice, software, packages, system software, network computer aided design/computer aided manufacture, spices, sugar, molasses, alcohol including ethyl, alcohol, sugar machinery, synthetic and man-made textiles, and tyres.

(c) To increase exports of these commodities, the Government have examined the recommendations made by trade groups in respect of these commodities and several decisions have already been taken which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening up Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations to the private sector, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country, simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations, etc.

741. [*Transferred to 4th March*, 1993.]

Indo-European Communities Trade Relations

742. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the establishment of Indo-European communities economic and trade relations;

(b) if so, the possibility explored in that direction so far; and

(c) what steps are contemplated in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has well established economic and trade relations with the European Economic Community and the countries comprised therein. These are periodically reviewed in Joint Commission meetings, regular bilateral discussions at official and Ministerial level, exchange of trade and industry delegations, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars, training programmes and buyer-seller meets.

STRATEGY FOR FASTER GROWTH OF TEA INDUSTRY

743. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a strategy for the faster growth of tea industry and a higher exportable surplus of tea; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Tea Board has prepared a perspective plan to increase the production of tea to 1000 M.Kgs by 2000AD so as to obtain higher exportable surplus of tea. The Plan includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved cultural practices, medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation pruning and infilling as well as long term measures such as replanting and extension planting.

Trade Relations with Malaysia

744. SHRI RANJI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in 'Indian Express' (Delhi edition) of 30th January, 1993 captioned "Vast scope in Malaysia for Indian businessmen"; and

(b) if so, what are the measures Government propose to take to develop trade relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has established a Joint Commission with Malaysia to provide the necessary stimulus for enhancement of trade and cooperation between the two countries. Exchange of business delegations and participation in each others Trade Fairs is also encouraged. Due to these efforts there are 18 Indian Joint Ventures already functioning in Malaysia while 14 Joint Ventures are under implemenation in a wide variety of industries. Our exports to Malaysia have increased from a level of US $ 69.58 million in 1987-88 to US $ 201.36 million in 1991-92.

Trade between India and Germany

745. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are great possibilities for increasing trade between India and Germany;

(b) whether several suggestions have been made to review German interest in investment and trade with India and to boost Indo-German Cooperation; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to act upon the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In view of the potential for expanding Indo-German Economic Cooperation, the prospects of increased trade and investment are reviewed periodically. In discussions during the recent visit of the German Chancellor, action points were drawn up on either side which inter alia pertained to the expansion of trade and economic relations.

खाद्य तेलों का आयात

746. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:**
डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन:

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश तिलहनों के मामले मे अब आत्म-निर्भर होने की स्थिति में है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने खाद्य-तेलों का आयात करना बन्द कर दिया है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो वित्तीय वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान खाद्य-तेलों की कुल कितनी मात्रा का आयात किया गया है और सरकार द्वारा इस प्रयोजन के लिए कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय की गयी है?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा